## STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR. CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION 1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

## Press Release

November 5, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Norman Googel 304-558-8986 1-800-368-8808

## ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL McGRAW SUES TO ENFORCE INVESTIGATIVE SUBPOENA AGAINST ANOTHER NEW JERSEY COLLECTION AGENCY

Attorney General Darrell McGraw announced today the filing of a petition asking the Kanawha Circuit Court to order JBC & Associates, a New Jersey collection agency, and its owner, Jack Boyajian, to produce records about its West Virginia collection activities as required by a subpoena issued by McGraw's office on August 11, 2003.

McGraw's office opened an investigation of JBC after several consumers complained that the law firm/collection agency was attempting to coerce payments of alleged bad checks by threatening arrest and criminal prosecution, harassing consumers repeatedly by telephone, refusing to identify itself, and refusing to provide copies of canceled checks or other verification of debts when disputed by consumers. The Attorney General's office also found that JBC was not licensed and bonded to collect debt in West Virginia.

Kanawha Circuit Judge Todd Kaufman ordered JBC and Boyajian to appear in his courtroom on December 12, 2003 at 9:30 a.m., to show cause why an order should not be issued compelling compliance with the subpoena and prohibiting the company from collecting debts in West Virginia until it complies with the subpoena and with West Virginia's collection agency licensing and bonding laws.

Any persons who wish to file a complaint against JBC or other consumer matters may do so by calling the Consumer Protection hotline at 1-800-368-8808

###